

Ain-Shams University Faculty of Science Chemistry Department

Physicochemical studies on some photochromic glasses containing transition metal oxide

A THESIS

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By

Amira Mohamed Abd El-Khalik Fayad

B.SC. of chemistry (1998)
M.SC. of chemistry (2006)
Glass Research Department, National Research Center,
Dokki, Giza, Egypt.

For Ph.D degree of Science (Chemistry)

APPROVAL SHEET FOR SUBMISSION

Name : Amira Mohamed Abd El-Khalik Fayad

Title of Thesis: physicochemical studies on some photochromic glasses

containing transition metal oxide

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Thesis Advisors Approved

1- Prof. Dr. Ebtisam Ahmed Saad

Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Ain-Shams University

2- Prof. Dr. Fouad Abbass Moustaffa

Professor, Glass Research Department, National Research Center.

3- Prof. Dr. Fatma Hatem El-Batal

Professor, Glass Research Department, National Research Center.

Prof. Dr. Maged Shafik Antonios

Chairman of Chemistry Department, Faculty of Science, Ain-Shams University



Ain-Shams University Faculty of Science Chemistry Department

PHYSICOCHEMICAL STUDIES ON SOME PHOTOCHROMIC GLASSES CONTAINING TRANSITION METAL OXIDE

Presented by Amira Mohamed Abd El-Kalik Fayad

B.SC Faculty of Science, Cairo University

M.SC Faculty of Science, Cairo University

Under Supervision of

Dr. Ebtisam Ahmed Sadd Professor of Inorganic Chemistry Chemistry Department Faculty of Science Ain-Shams University Dr. Fouad Abbass Moustafa Professor of Chemistry and Glass Technology Glass Research Department National Research Center

Dr. Fatma Hatem Abd El-Rahman Professor of Chemistry and Glass Technology Glass Research Department National Research Center

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اميرة محمد عبد الخالق فياض

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الدرجة العلمية : باحث مساعد

القسم التابع له : الكيمياء

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العناصر الانتقالية

الدرجة : دكتوراه الفلسفة في العلوم

لجنة الاشراف:

1. ا.د. ابتسام احمد سعد

استاذ الكيمياء غير العضوية كلية العلوم جامعة عين شمس

۲. ا.د. فؤاد عباس مصطفى
 استاذ كيمياء و تكنولوجيا الزجاج- المركز القومى للبحوث

٣. ا.د. فاطمة حاتم البطل عبد الرحمن

استاذ كيمياء و تكنولو جيا الزجاج- المركز القومي للبحوث

لجنة الحكم تاريخ البحث

الدراسات العليا

اجيزت الرسالة بتاريخ ختم الاجازة

موافقة مجلس الجامعة مو افقة مجلس الكلية

شك____ر

اشكر السادة الاساتذة الذين قاموا بالاشراف و هم

۱. ا.د. ابتسام احمد سعد

۲ ا.د. فؤاد عباس مصطفى

٣. ا.د. فاطمة حاتم البطل عبد الرحمن

ثم الاشخاص الذين تعاونوا معى في البحث و هم

الزملاء و الزميلات في قسم بحوث الزجاج بالمركز القومي للبحوث

و كذلك الهيئات التالية

المعامل المركزية بالمركز القومي للبحوث

Abstract

Physico-chemical investigations on some prepared Na-borosilicate glasses containing 0.4 AgBr and 0.04 Cu₂O, and also one of transition metal oxides, NiO, CoO, Cr₂O₃, TiO₂ have been carried out in order to throw some light on the structure of the studied glasses and possibly the forms in which each transition metal can exist in the glass.

All the glasses studied were melted in platinum-2% rhodium crucibles in an electrically heated furnace at 1450°C for two hours.

The results obtained could be explained when it was realized that the state of the transition metal ions existed in the glass depends on several factors such as:

- 1. The polarizability of the oxygen ligands surrounding transition metal ion.
- 2. The mobility of the alkali ions and their field strength.

The appearance of the absorption visible band at (440-455) nm indicates the existence of Ag-aggregate after heat treatment the glass samples at 600 °C for one, three or six hours.

Key words: Spectrophotometric studies; Sodium borosilicate glasses;

Silver ions; copper ions; Photochromic glass; transition metal oxides.

List of Contents

Contents	Page No.

I. Introduction

I.\.Brief history of glass	1
I.2.Glass definition	٣
I.3.Glass formation	٤
I.4.Structure of glass	٦
I.4.1.Zachariasen random network theory "Random network model"	٧
I.4.2.Lebedev's crystallite theory	11
I.5.Conditions for glass formation and the principals governing the ionic structure of glasses and crystals	١٨
I.6.Colours produced by ions	19
I.7.Origin of colour in inorganic substances	۲.
I.8.Origin of colour in glass	۲.
I.9. Transition metals	77
I.10.Colours produced by transition metal ions in glass	۲ ٤
I.11.Origin of spectra	۲ ٤
I.12.Optical absorption characteristic and glass Constitution	70
I.13. Absorption spectra of transition metal ions	47
I.14. Absorption spectra of transition metal complexes	۲۸
I.15. Photochromic Systems and Glasses	۲۹
I.16 Photochromic Materials	٣.
I.17. Inorganic photochromic glasses	٣1
I.17.1. Photochromic Glasses Activated by Rare Earths	٣1

List of contents

I.17.2. Borosilicate glasses doped with silver molybdate or tungstate	٣٢
I.17.3. Borosilicate glasses doped with copper or cadmium halides	٣٢
I.17.4. Thermally Darkening Photochromic Glasses (TDPG)	٣٣
I.17.5. Borosilicate glasses doped with silver halides	3
I.18. Formation of Silver Halide Crystals	3
I.19. Spectral Sensitivity	٣٦
I.20. Mechanism of the Darkening and Clearing reactions	٣٨
I.20.1. Darkening	٣٨
I.20.2. Clearing	٣٩
I.21.Origin of infrared spectra	٣٩
I.22.Infrared spectroscopy and glass structure	٤١
I.23. Electron microscopic investigation	٤٢
I.24. Density and molar volume	٤٣
I.25. Refraction (Refractive index)	٤٤
I.26. Chemical durability of glass	٤٧
I.27. Modes of glass corrosion	٤٨
I.28. Chemistry of nickel (Kolthoff et al 1962)	٤٩
I.29. Chemistry of cobalt	٤٩
I.30. Chemistry of chromium	٥,
I.31. Chemistry of titanium	01
I.32. Chemistry of copper	٥٣
I.33. Scope and aim of the present work	54
II. Literature Review	
II.1.Spectrophotometric studies	50
II.1.1. Ultraviolet-Visible absorption measurements	50
II.1.2. Infrared absorption spectroscopy	67
II.3.Density and Molar Volume studies	69
II.4. Refractive index	71

II.5. Chemical durability	٧٣
III- Experimental	
III.1.Raw materials, melting and preparation of the glass samples	٧٨
III.2. Heat treatment process	٧٩
III.3. Optical absorption measurements	٧٩
III.3.1. Ultra violet-visible absorption measurements	٧٩
III.3.2. Transmission Electron Microscope	٧٩
III.3.3. Infrared absorption measurement	٧٩
III.4. Density measurements and molar volume calculations	٨٠
III.5. Refractive index measurements	٨١
III.6. Chemical durability measurements	٨١
IV. Results and Discussion	
IV.1. Results obtained from ultraviolet-visible absorption measurements	٨٢
IV.1.1. Results obtained from ultraviolet-visible absorption measurements before heat treatment	۸۲
IV.1.2. Results obtained from spectrophotometric measurements after heat treatment at 600 °C for one hour	1.7
IV.1.3. Results obtained from spectrophotometric measurements after heat treatment at 600 °C for three hours	١١٨
IV.1.4. Results obtained from spectrophotometric measurements after heat treatment at 600 °C for six hours:	١٣٤
IV.2. Discussion of the results obtained from ultraviolet-visible measurements	10.
IV.2.1. Discussion of the results obtained from	10.
spectrophotometric measurements before heat treatment	١٤٨
IV.2.2. Discussion of the results obtained from spectrophotometric measurements after heat treatment at 600 °C for one hour	101
IV.2.3. Discussion of the results obtained from spectrophotometric measurements after heat treatment at 600°C for three and six hours	١٦٣

List of contents

IV.3. Results obtained from Transmission Electron Microscopy	170
•	179
IV.4. Infrared absorption studies	179
IV.4.1. Results obtained from infrared absorption measurements	
IV.4.2. Discussion of the results obtained from the infrared	110
absorption measurements	
IV.5. Density measurements, molar volume calculations and	197
refractive index measurements	
IV.5.1. Results obtained from density measurements and molar volume calculations	197
IV.5.2. Results obtained from refractive index measurements	198
IV.5.3. Discussion of the results obtained from density	777
measurements, molar volume calculations and refractive	
index measurements.	
IV.6. Chemical durability measurements	770
IV.6.1. Results obtained from chemical durability measurements	770
IV.6.2. Discussion of the results obtained from the chemical	
durability measurements	
V. Summary and Conclusion	779
VI. References	7.4.7
VII. List of Publications	
VIII. Arabic Summary	

Chapter one Introduction

I. Introduction

Glass is considered as one of the most important materials, it plays an important role in our life for its great contribution in both scientific research and industrial applications. As a matter of fact, the glass technology has grown up largely on empirical basis, separated some how from the scietific approach; but the workers in this field found themselves forced to fill the apparent gap between the science and the technology in the study of the glass structure. However, during the last three or four decades, the efforts have been made in order to investigate and identify glasses from the scientific point of view. Therefore, it is easy now to speak in scientific terms about the glass word as well as about a substance in the glassy state. Without a thorough knowledge of the relationship between the structure and the glass properties, no important progress is any longer possible. This has been recognized and the modern glass research establishment is being set up all over the world.

I.1. Brief history of glass

The history of glass is summarized in articles in the Encyclopedia Britannica and also by (Morey 1954, Newton and Davison 1989). Natural glasses have been used from the earliest times for which there is archeological evidence. Glass and glazes were manufactured far back in the human history. The earliest known glaze dates from about 12000 B.C. and the earliest pure glass from about 7000 B.C.; both were found in Egypt. Many of the beautifully stained windows, which can still be viewed in a number of churches over the European continent, show the deep commitment of the church to preserve the history of the mankind and the

Chapter one Introduction

religious teachings through the medium of the glass. At first the glass was used only for the decorative objects, but later it was molded or pressed into vessels. The invention of the glass blowing in about the first century B.C. greatly increased the use of the glass for the practical purposes in Roman times. In the west, the glass manufacturing was dispersed to isolated sites after the fall of the Roman Empire, but it was continued in Byzantium and later in the Middle East by the Arabs. Progress in the techniques of the glass manufacture and in the application of the glass was subsequently rapid, in parallel with many other areas of technology. Until the twentieth century most of these advances were made empirically, using common sense to guide experimentation. The application of the basic scientific understanding to the improvement of manufacture and to the new application of glass has occurred only in the last few decades. Many uses of the glass in the modern world continue to exploit the transparency, lustre and durability properties of the glass. Containers, windows, lighting, insulation, fibers, stemware and other hand-crafted art objects are typical of these traditional uses. At this point, it is worth noting that for a material to be used in the product, it must have certain desirable properties that determine its use. Through the application of the basic science to the study of the glass, newer properties of different types of glasses have been developed, and hence, newer products have been conceived. Some of the areas of the glass science that have been most active in the last few years are sol-gel fabrication, zirconium fluoride glasses, optical wave guides, reactions of water with glass, nonlinear optical properties, laser glass and many new types of photochromic glasses.

This brief survey of the history of the glass science is not intended to be exhaustive, and many deserving names and studies have undoubtedly been omitted. The next decades should see a continued expansion of